**Sunday May 22 Divine Office Week 6 of Easter**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND SAINT CECILIA**

**Parish Administrator: Mgr Francis Jamieson**

**Landline: 01258 452051 Mobile: 07826 732493**

Hospital RC Chaplains:

**Dorchester**: Fr Barry Hallett 01305 255198; **Poole**: Deacon Declan McConville 01202 442167

Newsletter: [newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newsletterblandfordcatholics@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [blandfordcatholics.org](http://blandfordcatholics.org/)

**Please keep in your prayers: Lynette Phillips; Val Dowding; Leander; Sandra, Teresa and Tom’s neice who is undergoing investigation for a brain tumour; Father Tom and all at the Care Home where he is chaplain; and all families of those suffering at this time.**

**MASS INFORMATION CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLISHING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**

**Saturday May 21 St Christopher Magallanes and Companions (Opt Mem) NO EF MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday May 22 9.00am HOLY MASS**

**- Plymouth Secular Clergy Fund (Mandatory Collection)**

**Monday May 23 NO MASS**

**Tuesday May 24 NO MASS St Aldhelm of Sherborne (Mem)**

**Wednesday May 25 NO MASS St Bede the Venerable, Doctor of the Church (Mem);**

**St Gregory VI; St Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi**

**Thursday May 26 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (SOL)**

**9.30am HOLY MASS *and* 7pm HOLY MASS**

**Friday May 27 9.10am Morning Prayers 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**St Augustine of Canterbury (FEAST) followed by Benediction**

**Saturday May 28 9.30am EF MASS**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday May 29 9.00am HOLY MASS - WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**

**- THE RIGHT USE OF THE MEDIA (Mandatory Collection)**

**There will be no daily Mass until Thursday, May 26th. On Saturday and Sunday Fr. Tony Pennicott will come to celebrate the obligation Masses. Thank you Father Pennicott.**

**FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEACE OF MIND OF OTHERS, WHO MIGHT BE IMMUNOSUPPRESSED, FRAIL OR ELDERLY, PLEASE OF YOUR CHARITY CONTINUE TO WEAR MASKS IN CHURCH**

Do not forget that **next Thursday, May 26th., is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.** This not an “extra” feast of any sort, but the joyful celebration of an event without which our redemption would not have been achieved.

The words at Mass talk of “the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension” of Our Lord.

There will be two Masses on that day: one as usual at 9.30am, and a sung Mass at 7pm. It is a Holy Day of Obligation, therefore a sin to miss Mass on that day, and while no one can oblige you by force to come, the force of your desire to express love for Jesus who died for love of you should compel you.

**A Diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for the leadership and ministry of Bishop Mark as Bishop of Plymouth will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth, on Monday, 30 May, at 12noon.**

**THE PRIEST**

Every year the shrine in Ars, France, of St. John Vianney is visited by 450,000 pilgrims who come to honour and to seek help from this holy and extraordinary priest, whom Pope Puis XI in 1929 declared “the heavenly patron of all parish priests throughout the world”. Not all of us priests live up to his standard, but we are all encouraged by him and taught to look only to Jesus as our pattern and the source of our ability to do what we are able.

This is a prayer he composed:

"God, please give to your Church today many more priests after your own heart.

May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry. Amen."

Please do not compare this prayer with us priests you see in your parishes all the time, though you might pray for us to be able to live up to the ideals of the priesthood. Our Bishop asked us to pray for vocations and I gave out a prayer we could use to pray a novena, 9 consecutive days. Mass was obviously offered for that intention, but I was saddened by the fact that very few people came to pray at the Holy Hour we had to pray for vocations. Do you want priests? Perhaps not, but if you do not pray for vocations there will be none because God’s people, who you are, have no desire to foster them.

St. John Vianney, the Curé d’Ars, said, "Man is a beggar who needs to ask God for everything.” If we do not ask we do not receive. Do you not need priests?

"The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you. After God, the priest is everything. If there were no priest, you would say, "What can we do in this church? there is no Mass; Our Lord is no longer there: we may as well pray at home. " When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion."

**RESTORED LIVES AT HOME**: The course takes place across 8 consecutive Monday evenings starting on the **9th May 2022**. When booking ask for the Bournemouth course led by Roger and Jackie Carr-Jones. https://www.restoredlives.org/online\_course\_relationship\_breakdown

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** £264.22 Thank you to everyone who contributed.  *Ruth*

With blessings on every one of our parish family

**Father Francis**

Dear All, I was one of the fortunate few who managed to attend the special service for vocations which Bishop Mark asked of us. The Holy Hour with the Readings and Prayers was very moving. It was a shame that not more of us could be there. I hope that our plea to God was heard and will be answered. *Marjorie*

**St Bede the Venerable** (673-735) Bede regarded prayer as a discipline, but study, teaching, and writing as a delight. "I have worked", he wrote, "both for my own benefit and that of my brethren, to compile short extracts from the works of the vernerable fathers on Holy Scripture and to comment on their meaning and interpretation" He wrote twenty-five commentaries on the Bible, always striving to uncover the spiritual meaning of the text. In the following passage he explained his method of interpretation: "All scripture is interpreted in a fourfold way - historically, or allegorically, tropologically (morally) or anagogically.

"It is history when something is recorded clearly as it was literally said or done. For example, the people of Israel are reported to have made a tabernacle of the Lord in the wilderness.

"It is allegory when the presence of Christ or the sacraments are designated by mystical words or events. For example, when Isaiah says 'A shoot will spring from the stock of Jesse\*, a new shoot will grow from his roots' (Is. 11:1 NJB), he means the Virgin Mary shall be born of the root of David and Christ shall be born out of her stock.

"It is tropology when in either literal or figurative language, it appertains to moral instruction and correction. For example, as when John warns 'Let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth' (1 John 3:18 RSV).

"It is anagogy, that is, a form of speech looking to higher things which discusses, plainly or mystically, future rewards and the future life of heaven. For example, plainly 'Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God' (Mt 5:8 NJB). But in mystical words:'Blessed are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life' (Rv 22:14 NJB), which means blessed are they who cleanse their thoughts and actions so that they may have the power to see the Lord Christ."

Without leaving his cell, Bede exerted a wide missionary influence. His teaching equipped Anglo-Saxon monks and nuns to carry the Christian faith to the people of England and Germany. Today we still read with profit his Bible commentaries, but we value even more his 'History of the English Church and People'. (extract from *The Times Book of Saints*)

*\*Jesse was David's father*

***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

 **COUNTING & BANKING** - I am preparing a Rota for the Counting and Banking from **5 June to 25 September**. I have already sent an email to those on the list which has been at the back of the church for a few weeks, so if you did not receive it please let me know, ruthhiscock@cbeeches.co.uk. Thank you. *Ruth*

**GREAT BIG DIOCESAN QUIZ** – We’re looking for parishes to join us on **Friday,1 July 2022 at 7.30pm.** If you would like to register an interest to take part or would like to discuss the quiz in more detail, please email [vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:vicki.dunstone@prcdtr.org.uk) - all materials will be supplied by CCSP –  *forwarded by Father Francis*

**We welcome contributions to this newsletter from parishioners - please send in links to websites, hard copy, email pictures, prose or poetry, whether to inform or to entertain.....**

"How would you describe the history of the Christian faith? A small group of believers, who were convinced that - against all logic, science and sense - their leader was alive, whose conviction was so great that they were prepared to die themselves for this claim. And even though the forces of an empire were against them - and even though you were better off socially and economically if you stuck with the established religion - yet the power with which they told people about their leader was such that they spread like cow parsley in an ornamental border. After 2,000 years of persecution - by others, of others, and of each other - the followers of Jesus eventually reached the point where they could hold church meetings that could spend hours discussing what power replacement light bulbs they should use in the church toilets.

Something gets lost, and has to be rediscovered over and over again...." [to be continued] - Archdruid Eileen, *The Beaker Folk of Husborne Crawley* <https://cyber-coenobites.blogspot.com/> (contributed by Avis)